

Overview of the Screener Sum Version of the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire-R2

The Screener Sum Version (SSV) can be used when it is not possible to use the full JVQ-R2. A “screener” asks respondents whether they (or, in the caregiver version, their child) had experienced a particular type of youth victimization (such as robbery or kidnapping). In the full JVQ-R2, when respondents say a victimization has occurred, follow-up questions collect incident details. In the SSV, these follow-ups are omitted. This makes the Screener Sum Version briefer and easier to use, especially for self-administered questionnaires.

Comparison to the full JVQ: In the first nationally representative study with the JVQ, the Screener Sum Version (SSV) had similar correlations with trauma symptoms as the full JVQ. In fact, compared to the full JVQ, the correlations with the SSV were either the same or slightly higher for anger, depression and anxiety scores from the Trauma Symptom Checklist.

With the SSV, however, it is not possible to tell when a respondent is reporting a single incident to two or more victimization screeners. For example, a reported robbery and a physical assault could be part of the same victimization. In the full JVQ, using the Separate Incident Version scoring, an effort is made to eliminate these double reports in the follow-up questions.

As a result, the total number of victimization endorsements is higher with the Screener Sum Version. In the first JVQ study, the mean number of victimizations increased from 3.0 to 3.7, and the standard deviation increased from 2.3 to 2.9. The range changed from 0-15 to 0-19. Raising the cut-off to 8 because of these increased reports correctly classified 87% of poly-victims identified with full JVQ, and there were no demographic or victimization characteristics that significantly differed using the two scoring alternatives. For details, see: Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2005). Measuring poly-victimization using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 29, 1297-1312.

Other briefer alternatives to the full JVQ-R2. In addition to the Screener Sum Version, other briefer alternatives to the full JVQ-R2 include the **Reduced Item Version** (12 items, with no follow-up questions on incident characteristics) and the **Abbreviated Interview** (screeners with a selected subset of follow-up items). Many users also choose to use specific **modules** or **items** that meet their needs. Consult the full questionnaire and manual for details on these alternatives, follow-up items (on injury, perpetrator identity, etc) and administration procedures.

Contact and citation information:

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There is no fee for the use of the JVQ-R2 in research or clinical practice, but we do require that all users properly acknowledge the source of the items. Suggested citation: Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011). *The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire: 2nd Revision (JVQ-R2)*. Durham, NH: Crimes Against Children Research Center.